**How important is consistency in moral reasoning?**

I believe consistency is one of the key components of moral reasoning. Many of us have morals, some of which are strong beliefs which we hold. How can we comply to these beliefs if we are not consistent? Lack of consistency can lead us to question whether we truly believe in these morals.

Consider the following example:

Through the knowledge of the natural sciences and further developments in the medical fields, doctors can treat patients and do their best to cure a patient. The patient trusts the doctor due to reasoning, being the fact that the doctor has the knowledge and ability to treat the patient and through communication, as the doctor uses language which allows a patient to trust and feel comfortable with that doctor.

The doctor believes that his duty, considering his morals is to do his utmost best to treat the patient, however, will these morals apply if the doctor’s patient happens to be a man who had an affair with his wife? Does the doctor now not believe that he needs to do his best to treat the patient? It is in this case that if the doctor strongly believes in his morals, he will do the right thing. This case cannot be considered exceptional as the man is still a patient who needs medical treatment. Instead of looking at the two situations as being different, which they shouldn’t be looked at as being different, the morals of the doctor must be questioned.

**Does history show how we have made moral progress?**

History has shown how we have made moral progress. One of the main examples to support this would be the slave trade. The trading of humans as if they were items to be sold and the inhumane behaviour towards them, disregarding the fact that they too are humans just like ourselves. Mostly Africans and Indians/arabs were traded as slaves which shows a great deal of racism. It is for this reason that these races were treated badly in those days. They were not seen as humans just like the other races but as things. They were treated with disrespect and without sympathy. This is morally incorrect as the people did not consider that they too were humans and had no empathy towards the slaves. Countries banned slave trade and this shows the moral progress as I believe it is morally incorrect for humans to be treated as such. Another example would be countries punishing any acts of racism. Treating someone unfairly because of their skin colour was something of the norm in the history of many countries. For example in a work of literature by Joseph Conrad called ‘Heart of Darkness’, the use of words such as ‘savages’ and ‘niggers’ to describe black people was overlooked when many students studied this book as a work of art. No disrespect towards the work itself however the way in which Conrad wrote this book, the feelings of people of that race were not considered and the writer was ignorant towards the fact that these terms were offensive. However at the time the novel was written this was seen as normal. However when student read that book today the racist words are highlighted and the book has received a lot of negative feedback due to these words. This shows how racism is not something ordinary today and how the world has progressed morally and people, no matter what race as seen as one (humans), not the savages and the humans or the ‘niggers’ and the ‘whites’, just humans.